

amendment that is found on page 663. I do have an amendment to that amendment offered by Senator Pappas. (Pappas amendment is found on page 898 of the Journal.)

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I have a little technical amendment I would like to add to Senator Wesely's amendment so we can advance this bill and get it over to Final Reading, so we can pass it. Basically what it does, it was the same amendment that was printed on page 743 in the Journal. And it strikes the concept 90 out that we adopted here a couple of weeks ago, and replaces it with a 3 percent reduction in retirement benefits per year, from ages 65 to 60. Now this, I think everybody knows that the Omaha school district they can get full retirement benefits at age 62. But let's talk a little bit about the report that Senator Wesely talked about, about what it is going to cost and what it is not going to cost. Now, granted, the actuaries did predict over a period of 20 to 25 years it could cost \$57 million. That is what the actuaries predict, and depending and determining on how much of an increase per year that the teachers would get. Also he failed to mention that the bulk of that would be picked up by the employee and the employer, not the State of Nebraska. And he didn't mention the fact that it will be offset by a lower starting salary of teachers coming in. So actually it would be close to a negative increase, period. This, I think, is one of the fairer things. We talked about teacher shortage. I think everybody knows when they go out and apply for a job, anybody does now, the young people coming out of colleges and stuff, before they study a career or apply for a career they not only look at the starting salaries, but they look at the fringe benefits. Fringe benefits are very crucial. I think you'll note that most large corporations and other businesses have some type of early retirements in place with not such a drastic drop as we presently have in place now for the teachers retirement in the State of Nebraska. I think this would be one added attraction to get more people, young people, to look at teaching for a career because this body has never seen fit to give them large increases in salaries or increased state aid to do that, like fund 994 from a couple of years ago, et cetera. But I think this is one of the first small steps we could take. I'd ask this body's adoption of this amendment to Senator Wesely's amendment, replace the Rule 90